

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2009

Present: Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Len Platt, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Ms Lynda Agili (Secretary)

Apologies: Dr Catherine Alexander, Professor Les Back, Mr Mike Metelits, Professor Irit Rogoff, Professor Robert Zimmer

In Attendance: Ms Marie Fallon, Research Grants Officer, Ms Julie Taylor, Strategic Business Development Manager, Ms Diana Lockyer, Personal Assistant/ Pro Warden (Research and Enterprise)

OPEN BUSINESS

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noted:

Attendance

that the Chair thanked Professor Platt for maintaining his active membership of the Committee even though he was currently on sabbatical leave

that the Chair thanked Miss Julie Taylor for attending the Committee in the place of Mr Mike Metelits

Agenda items

that the RCUK Code for Good Research Conduct would be discussed by the Committee later in the year after Research Ethics Sub-Committee had considered any issues arising from it

2 STANDING ORDERS AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS POLICY

Received and noted:

the College Policy on Conflicts of Interest (A; 09-319) and the College Standing Orders (B; 09-320)

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Received and noted:

the Terms of Reference, Composition and Membership of the Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee (C; 09-396)

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2009

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

(i) Departmental Research Committee [DRC] Network

that the inaugural meeting of the DRC Network had been very successful and well attended, with discussion raising a number of issues for future consideration within the network and by RKTC

that DRC Chairs and HoDs had completed a survey providing information on how each DRC was organised, their remits and areas of specific responsibility, and areas of common concern that will form a basis for discussion and sharing of practice at future meetings

(ii) Research Strategy and Targets

that the Strategy Working Group was in the process of further developing the new strategy in light of issues identified at RKTC and would bring a revised version to the Spring term meeting of RKTC

that the PWRE and Head of the Research Office would be meeting with the Heads and DRC Chairs of all departments individually to discuss research issues relating to REF and targets for research applications and income in 2009/10 and 10/11

(iii) Reports from Research Centres

that a schedule for reviewing Centres would be established in light of forthcoming revisions to the Guidelines for Centres and Units [see item 9 on the present agenda]

(iv) Business Case for Research and Knowledge Transfer Officer Post

that the business case for a new post to work across Research Office and Business Development Office, initially funded for a fixed one-year term from existing RO and BDO budgets, had been approved by the Senior Management Team and would be advertised in November

(v) Proposal to Establish the Centre for Geo-Cultures

that the Chair had liaised with Professor Rogoff concerning this outline proposal and explained that a formal application will need to be made if and when she decides to progress the plans for such a centre

6 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) CONSULTATION

Received:

the second consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the HEFCE brief guide to the proposals, Goldsmiths preliminary responses to the consultation, a draft workplan for College preparations for REF (D; 09-397)

Noted:

- (i) that the Chair had attended a recent Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) meeting about the REF proposals, and summarised some of the issues that had been discussed there

- (ii) that it is strategically imperative for universities to provide appropriate and meaningful evidence of the societal impact of their research if government is to recognise the value of this investment in impending budget rounds and spending reviews where there will be many competing pressures on the public purse
- (iii) that work on defining 'impact' in discipline-appropriate ways is ongoing, in part through a HEFCE pilot study which will lead to a report in Autumn 2010, and that Professor David Sweeney (HEFCE Director for Research, Innovation, and Skills) would be visiting Goldsmiths to consult our staff on some of the potential issues relating specifically to practice-based research
- (iv) that currently it is proposed that impact will be evidenced via narrative case studies (one per 5-10 FTE in a given submission), and that all departments should start to identify potential case studies and develop local strategies for capturing relevant information and optimising the impact of their academic research if appropriate
- (v) that the consultation document would be circulated widely and that where appropriate, departmental responses would be incorporated into the College response (submission deadline December 2009)
- (vi) that Departments would additionally be explicitly encouraged to contribute to the consultation responses from their discipline associations, and to seek representation on REF Panels
- (vii) that the College REF Workplan assumes a census date of 31 October 2012 as indicated in the current REF proposals, and that a dry run would thus need to take place in Spring/Summer 2011

Resolved:

to approve the REF Workplan and proceed with working to the suggested timescales

7 EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

Received:

- i summary of applications and awards for the last 5 years (E; 09-398)
- ii schedule of applications and awards for funding made in the year ending 31 July 2009 (F; 09-399)
- iii analysis of income and expenditure in the year ending 31 July 2009 (G; 09-400)

Noted:

- (i) that there had been a marked increase in the number of grant applications made in 08/09 relative to 07/08. The dip in 07/08 may have reflected a strategic focus on preparation of written outputs prior to the RAE census date, and the subsequent increase in grant applications is encouraging, though was more marked in some departments than others.
- (ii) that while the overall value of awards had decreased in 08/09 relative to 07/08 (to some extent presumably reflecting the lower rate of applications submitted in the preceding year) there had been increases in income from the EU and from UK industry. These sources will become increasingly

important for strategic reasons, particularly in the current national economic context, and this underscores the importance of the enhanced co-ordination between the support provided through the Research and Business Development offices.

- (iii) that Finance would generate summaries of data for individual academic departments to inform their strategic planning and the setting of research income targets.
- (iv) that staff from several departments feel that the current system for distributing grant residuals between the College and departments means that grantholders do not have sufficient time released specifically to work on the projects. The Chair will raise this issue at SMT.

8 DEPLOYMENT OF RKTC RESEARCH FUNDS IN 2010/11

to consider whether deployment of the Research Fund in 2010/11 should replicate the principles and procedures from 2009/10, focusing primarily on pump-priming research by early career researchers

Noted:

- (i) that support for early career researchers is highly valued across the College and should be continued at some level in 2010/11
- (ii) that it would be appropriate additionally to consider supporting projects focusing on the capture and/or enhancement of 'impact' as defined in the current REF proposals
- (iii) that providing support for open access publishing (e.g. via author payments to journals allowing them to make their article freely accessible) would be of potential benefit to some departments, particularly those whose submissions to the REF are likely to be evaluated in part via bibliometric indicators.

Resolved:

The Chair and Head of the Research Office would take these issues into account in drafting a proposal for this year's competition, to be considered at the next meeting of RKTC

9 REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH CENTRES AND UNITS

Received:

revised guidelines for the establishment of research centres and units (H; 09-401)

Noted:

- (i) that the revised guidelines had clarified the conceptual and procedural delineations between Centres (cross-departmental) and Units (intra-departmental). These differences must be reflected in both membership and representation on the Advisory Board/Group, and proposals to RKTC to establish new Centres will therefore require endorsements from the heads of at least two participating departments.
- (ii) that a distinction between 'soft' and 'hard' centres is no longer made within this document, since it has been confusing at an operational level; in

practice, the establishment of a 'hard' centre (which is financially and structurally autonomous) requires high level strategic consideration and is not a matter for RKTC other than in advising on academic/research aspects of the rationale

- (iii) that the initial responsibility for considering annual reports and 3-yearly reviews lies with academic departments, which will be required to confirm to RKTC that these have been undertaken. RKTC will consider any recommendations from departments, approve these as appropriate, and instigate further review procedures where necessary.

Recommended:

that the revised Guidelines for the Establishment of Academic Centres and Units be submitted to Academic Board for approval by Academic Board

10 GOLDSMITHS RESEARCH ONLINE (GRO)

Received:

Goldsmiths Research Online and Open Access: an introduction for researchers. (I: 09-402) and a demonstration of GRO from Dr Jacqueline Cooke and Ms Tahani Nadim of the Library

Noted:

- (i) that GRO was built using the ePrints software which is also being used by a number of other research intensive universities (including Oxford and UCL); it will be compatible with the REF data collection system, so that the bibliographic records held on GRO can be used to populate REF returns
- (ii) that GRO had been piloted with Psychology, Computing, Sociology and Design to ensure the system was suited to a wide range of outputs and bibliographic records
- (iii) that GRO would be launched to all departments in early 2010 through a combination of demonstrations at departmental meetings and providing individual support to academics depositing their research on GRO for the first time
- (iv) that the terms of publishers' copyright licenses can be accessed via the GRO interface so that academics can easily decide when deposited items can be made available on an open access basis
- (v) that GRO has the potential to be a valuable tool for promoting Goldsmiths' research globally; this is evident from the large number of international requests received for articles whose details have been logged on it already
- (vi) that it may be useful to demonstrate GRO at WAG so that all HoDs are fully aware of the strategic importance of the repository to College research and thus of putting in place departmental mechanisms to ensure that their staff enter details of their research activity and deposit outputs where possible

11 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PROSPECT AND INNOVATION UNIT

Received:

a proposal to establish a Prospect and Innovation [Pi] Unit within the Department of Design with effect from January 2010 (J; 09-403)

Noted:

- (i) that the Pi-Unit offered a promising research and income generation agenda, building on exploratory work which has been undertaken with support from the Business Development Office
- (ii) that given fairly extensive engagement with other academic departments via an interdisciplinary Advisory Committee, it was unclear whether the initiative should be a Centre or Unit

Resolved:

to ask the proposed Head to clarify whether Centre or Unit status was sought, and for the Chair to action approval as appropriate

12 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CENTRE FOR IDENTITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Received:

a proposal to establish a Centre for Identity and Social Justice led by the Department of Educational Studies with effect from January 2010 (K; 09-404)

Noted:

- (i) that the proposed Centre offered an interesting research agenda which had the potential to support the development of fruitful cross-departmental academic collaborations
- (ii) that the proposal lacked clarity about the level of formal engagement and support from other departments than Educational Studies, and that it would need endorsement and commitment from at least one other Department to be eligible for Centre status

Resolved:

to request the Head of Educational Studies to provide evidence of the required explicit endorsement from the head of at least one other academic department. If this is received in time for the forthcoming Academic Board, the Chair will submit the papers and recommend approval

13 AN UPDATE ON ESRC DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRES AND THE AHRC BLOCK GRANT PARTNERSHIP

Received:

an oral report from the Dean of Graduate School on ESRC Doctoral Training Centres and the AHRC Block Grant Partnership

Noted:

- (i) that the application form for Doctoral Training Centre status has been released on Je-S and must be submitted on 11 March
- (ii) that the division of training provision between Goldsmiths and Queen Mary was still being finalised but that the programme looked strong and would offer doctoral students at both institutions significant advantages as a result of the collaboration and discipline mix
- (iii) that it had become apparent that QMW students were already receiving methods training at Goldsmiths in the Psychology Department

14 BUSINESS ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEE (BASC)

Received and noted:

the minutes of the Business Advisory Sub Committee (BASC/9) held on 29 June 2009 Reference (~~L; 09-313~~)(09-536)¹

15 RCUK CODE FOR GOOD RESEARCH CONDUCT

Received and noted:

the RCUK Code for Good Research Conduct, adherence to which is a requirement for all Research Council grant holders from 1 October 2009 (M; 09-405)

16 RESEARCH ETHICS SUB-COMMITTEE

Received and noted:

the minutes of the Research Ethics Sub Committee held on 2 June 2009 (RESC/9-09-539)²

17 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

To receive and disseminate to departments a report of major research initiatives currently open for application (N; 09-406)

18 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Noted:

- i the following periods of paid leave approved by Chair's action:
 - (a) Prof. L. Adkins, Dept of Sociology (11.01.10 - 26.03.10)
 - (b) Prof. H. Caygill, Dept of History (11.01.10 – 18.06.10)
 - (c) Ms. A. Fairtlough, Dept of Professional And Community Education (26.04.10 – 18.06.10)
 - (d) Ms .C. Fleming, Dept of Drama (21.10.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (e) Prof. C. French, Dept of Psychology (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (f) Ms. A. Furse, Dept of Drama (11.01.10 – 26.03.10)
 - (g) Dr. L. Goddard, Dept of Psychology (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (h) Prof. A. Ivashkin, Dept of Music (11.01.10 – 26.03.10)
 - (i) Dr. K. Nash, Dept of Sociology (1.09.10 – 31.12.10)
 - (j) Dr. P. Odih, Dept of Sociology (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (k) Dr. D. Osbourne, Dept of Drama (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)

¹ Number corrected retrospectively on archiving - RMH April 2010.

² Number allocated retrospectively on archiving - RMH December 2010.

- (l) Dr. D. Oswell, Dept of Sociology (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (m) Prof. B. Skeggs, Dept of Sociology (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (n) Mr. T. Rosenberg, Dept of Design (21.09.09 – 18.06.10)
 - (o) Prof. T. Valentine, Dept of Psychology (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
 - (p) Dr. M. Young, Dept of Music (21.09.09 – 11.12.09)
- ii the following periods of unpaid leave approved by Chair's action:
- (a) Ms. A. Fairtlough, Dept of Professional And Community Education (27.09.10 – 17.12.10)
 - (b) Dr. K. Nash, Dept of Sociology (11.01.10 – 18.06.10)

Resolved:

to approve reports following leave of absence: (O; 09-407)

- (a) Dr. J. Besson, Dept of Anthropology
- (b) Dr. F. Krause, Dept of English and Comparative Literature

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CENTRE FOR COGNITION, COMPUTATION AND CULTURE

- (i) that Professor Jules Davidoff's term as Head of the Centre for Cognition, Computation and Culture had come to an end

Resolved:

that the decision on the appointment of a new Head could be taken by Chair's Action

20 MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting for 2009-10 would be held on:
18 February 2010 at 2.00 pm

LA, December 2009